

History of

Collins Hill High School

Collins Hill High School, located in Suwanee, Georgia, held the title “largest high school in the state of Georgia” for a number of years. This outstanding characteristic of the school was achieved after five years of existence. Opening in 1994, with a student population of 1,377, the school has grown from a 50-acre site to a 70-acre site and reached a peak enrollment of 4,200 students in September 2002. High expectations for success from the faculty, students, parents, and community in academics, athletics, and extracurricular activities have shaped Collins Hill in spite of exploding growth.

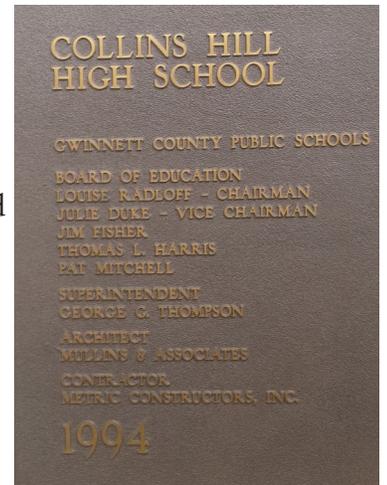
Collins Hill High School primarily serves diverse middle class students from professional families. As a northeast suburb of Atlanta, 40 miles away, and 4 miles from Interstate 85, the Collins Hill community is considered metro-Atlanta, yet the traditional one-family home dominates.

Our 253 faculty and staff members serving our current student body of 3,200 students work in a facility complex comprised of three two-story buildings, 150 classrooms and labs, 14 trailer classrooms, 28 offices, a theater, two gymnasiums, 1 large 8,000 seat stadium, 3 athletic playing fields, and 2 practice fields. In 2000, the new Collins Hill Aquatic Center, built adjacent to our campus, added an Olympic size swimming pool for use by our students. A field house was constructed in 2008. In our 21-year history, constant expansion,

FAST FACTS	
Address: 50 Taylor Road Suwanee, GA 30024	
The following have served as principals of Collins Hill High School:	
1994–2002	Coley Krug
2002–Dec. 2013	Glenn McFall
Feb. 2014–Present	Kerensa Wing
School Colors: Green, Silver and White	
School Mascot: Eagle	

building additions, and then a reduction in student enrollment and staff have necessitated long-range planning, accommodating construction schedules, and yearly organizational and managerial changes.

Three principals have served our school. The first principal, Mr. Coley Krug, opened the school and laid



the foundation for the school to become an academic and athletic high-achieving school. He developed a teacher and parent shared governance organizational format long before the state mandated school councils. His blueprint of vision, integrity, and strength, as displayed on our school crest, led the school through the building years and rapid growth years. The school became a Georgia School of Excellence in 2001 before he retired in 2002. Mr. Glenn McFall became our second school principal. During his tenure, Mr. McFall led the school in developing and implementing a comprehensive Student Advisement Program, promoting a schoolwide writing initiative, and integrating an extensive student assessment improvement program supported by yearly school goals written and evaluated annually through our Local School Plan for Improvement. Additionally, he was instrumental in initiating a student-focused “Best Instructional Practices” teaching model for our school. Mrs. Wing has continued to build upon Collins Hill’s strong foundation by leveraging teacher leadership with a focus on student learning through Professional Learning Communities and increasing student leadership development to assist with school improvement initiatives.

Three of our local Teachers of the Year have become Gwinnett County Teachers of the Year: Mrs. Vickie McCrary (1998), Mr. Judson Bridges (2004), and Dr. Mai Yin Tsoi (2006). Our staff boasts of having 85% of our teachers with a master’s or higher degree and 11 National Board Certified teachers. Grants and other state teacher awards, too numerous to mention, also have been earned by our dynamic faculty. Our custodial and school nutrition staffs also have won county and state awards.

Our students consistently rank high within Gwinnett County and other Georgia high schools in Scholarships earned, SAT scores, Georgia High School Graduation Tests, National Merit Finalists, Governor’s Honors Participants, and Science Fair Winners. Our SAT scores also exceed the national average. Our award-winning orchestra and band students have performed at state, national and international events. During the last 10 years, we have won 28 team state championships, two national championships, and two Directors Cups at the AAAAA level. We are also proud of our students who have earned individual state and national honors.

Community service and volunteerism has been a

major focus of the school since its first year. This program has evolved into an award-winning, state-recognized volunteer program. Annually, our students volunteer in 50 or more community activities logging more than 27,000 hours of volunteer service. Additionally the school promotes three school-wide projects each year. The Thanksgiving Can-A-Thon, the Hope for the Holidays needy families initiative, and the American Cancer Society Relay for Life, unify students, faculty, parents, and community businesses for serving others. The commitment and pride that is shown by the student body during these projects is overwhelming!

Our current student population is diverse with Caucasian (32%), African-Americans (27%), Asian (13%), Hispanic (24%), and multiracial (4%). In its twenty-one years, the school has embraced rapid changes in multicultural populations and physically and mentally handicapped populations. Today 5.5 ESOL teachers (English Speakers of Other Languages) serve 167 ESOL students of 34 languages. The Special Education department of 25 teachers delivers services to 329 special needs students. All students with varying abilities and academic needs are provided the support services needed to be academically successful. “At-risk” students or potential dropouts are provided support through student and teacher tutoring and mentoring programs and through a CARE Team (Children at Risk Educationally) program. Advanced Placement enrollment continues to increase each year in

19 distinct AP courses. Our gifted enrollment comprises 19% of our student body. At Collins Hill, we are committed to the achievement of every student and we totally embrace the ideal of our graduates being College and Career Ready.

The education of the students of the Collins Hill community is promoted as a partnership that includes parents, students, and faculty. The parent group plays a vital role in the triad. An active PTSA provides financial assistance and coordinates eight parent committees who diligently work for the over-all success of the school. Additionally, 15 booster clubs provide physical and financial assistance for specific team sports or school groups.

A culture of continuous improvement permeates all decisions made for the students of Collins Hill. Through a shared decision-making process parents, teachers, and



*Judson Bridges,
2004 Gwinnett County
Teacher of the Year*



*Dr. Mai Yin Tsoi,
2006 Gwinnett County
Teacher of the Year*

students meet regularly to formulate policies and goals for each year. Through Gwinnett County's Results-Based Evaluation System, the school conducts surveys, receives assessment data, and evaluates itself to assess strengths and pinpoint areas for improvement. Thus through a process of planning, goal setting, implementing, assessing, and evaluating, the school engages in continuous improvement. This annual cycle models our belief in Aristotle's statement: "We are what we repeatedly do.

Excellence then is not an act, but a habit." Excellence is "the wind beneath our wings". We are the Collins Hill High School Eagles and we are soaring!